

ARTICLE APPEARED  
ON PAGE A-2

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## Brzezinski's Deputy, a Source of Growing Influence

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WASHINGTON, March 27 — Like most Government officials who toil in the bureaucratic shadow of their Cabinet-level bosses, David L. Aaron, President Carter's Deputy Assistant for National Security, has received little of the attention accorded to his immediate superior, Zbigniew Brzezinski.

Only 38 years old when he entered the White House in 1977 as the No. 2 man on the National Security Council staff, Mr. Aaron was viewed as one of the small cluster of young foreign policy specialists who were being groomed for leadership in future Democratic administrations.

But with little fanfare, Mr. Aaron is acknowledged by admirers and critics alike to have already emerged as an influential voice in the making of foreign policy. Indeed, some White House aides suggest that Mr. Aaron's bureaucratic skills and political ties to Vice President Mondale have, on occasion, given him greater power than Mr. Brzezinski.

In the process, Mr. Aaron has also become as controversial in high Administration circles as his boss, with many officials complaining that his strong views, his quick temper and what one called his "roughhouse tactics" in internal debates have worsened strains between the council and other agencies.

### Confrontation With C.I.A.

His best-known confrontation occurred with Adm. Stansfield Turner, the Director of Central Intelligence. In White House meetings during the Iranian crisis late last year, Mr. Aaron was a fierce critic of the C.I.A.'s failure to anticipate the revolt, and he is now heading the interagency team that is working to upgrade the Administration's ability to predict foreign political disturbances.

The most recent example of Mr. Aaron's behind-the-scenes influence cited by officials was the situation in Yemen. The Administration sent a carrier task force to the Arabian Sea earlier this month and rushed \$400 million in arms to the underdeveloped nation in response to an assault mounted by Soviet-supported Southern Yemen.

In the midst of the crisis, Mr. Carter, with Mr. Brzezinski and Secretary of State Cyrus R. Vance, undertook his peace mission to Egypt and Israel. Mr. Aaron, left behind in Washington, took charge of mapping the Administration's response to the fighting in Yemen, pushing hard for an American show of force and brushing aside objections that the United States ran the risk of overreacting to the brush fire conflict.



The New York Times/Teresa Zabala  
David L. Aaron, Deputy Assistant for National Security, at the White House

In retrospect, many officials believe the American response, along with Arab mediation, contributed to the cease-fire in Yemen while demonstrating the Administration's commitment to stability in the Arabian Peninsula. All the same, Mr. Aaron's conduct during the episode has excited much private comment in the Government.

### Pleased to See Brzezinski

"He was really a tough customer," recalled a State Department official, "and he wasn't about to tolerate dissent. Believe it or not, people here were relieved when Brzezinski got back to town."

"He was driving people pretty hard and some egos may have been bruised," conceded a White House aide.

Mr. Aaron, in a recent interview, acknowledged that he took a firm stand in interagency meetings during the crisis. "I pushed hard for real action," he said, "but I wasn't a wild man. When it came time to put on the brakes, I put on the

brakes. I was involved in the handling of some earlier issues, including much of the neutron bomb controversy, appear to have gained him some enemies in the Government; other officials still consider Mr. Aaron an extremely effective operator in the bureaucracy. In part, they trace this to his relatively long public service.

Unlike Mr. Brzezinski, who had only a year's experience in the State Department before joining the Carter White House, Mr. Aaron has worked in Government since the early 1960's, when he became a Foreign Service officer following graduate studies in foreign affairs at Princeton University. After a tour in Latin America, he spent the next decade working in a series of national security jobs — at the headquarters of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization in Brussels, at the Arms Control and Disarmament Agency and as a member of Henry A. Kissinger's staff when Mr. Kissinger was